

IN THE CLAIMS

1-41 (canceled)

42 (previously presented): A communication device comprising:

a keyboard having at least twenty six keys that are each labeled with a different letter of the alphabet and with a number and configured to generate an output signal, the number being 2-9 respectively for keys labeled with A-C, D-F, G-I, J-L, M-O, P-S, T-V and W-Z;

a processor for converting the output signal into a character code;

means for converting the output signal into a telephony tone signal;

software applications stored by the communication device and executed by the processor;

and

a keyboard mode control software module that automatically controls whether the keyboard output signals from the keys are converted into character codes or telephony tone signals based on which of the plurality of software applications is active.

43 (canceled)

44 (previously presented): The device of claim 42 wherein the keys are arranged in a QWERTY configuration.

45 (previously presented): The device of claim 42 further including a display configured to display the character codes.

46 (previously presented): The device of claim 42 further including a mode key with which a user can switch conversion of the output signals from telephony signals to character codes.

47 (previously presented): A communication device comprising:

a keyboard having at least twenty six keys that are each labeled with a different letter of the alphabet and each assigned a number; and

means for generating, for each key pressed by a user, a telephony tone signal corresponding to the number assigned to the pressed key.

48 (previously presented): The device of claim 47 wherein the numbers 2-9 are respectively assigned to keys A-C, D-F, G-I, J-L, M-O, P-S, T-V and W-Z.

49 (previously presented): The device of claim 47 wherein the keys are arranged in a QWERTY configuration.

50 (previously presented): The device of claim 47 wherein each key is labeled with its assigned number.

51-55 (canceled)

56 (new): A communication device comprising:

a keyboard having at least twenty six keys that are each labeled with a different letter of the alphabet and with a number, the number being 2-9 respectively for keys labeled with A-C, D-F, G-I, J-L, M-O, P-S, T-V and W-Z.

57 (new): The device of claim 56 wherein the keys are arranged in a QWERTY configuration.

58 (new): The device of claim 56 further including means for generating, for each key pressed by a user, a telephony tone signal for the number corresponding to the pressed key.